Increase of rebate days for sale of handloom clothes

755. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received any request from the Government of Tamil Nadu to increase the rebate days for the sale of handloom clothes; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. They have requested for increase in the number of rebate days from 30 to 60.

(b) Under the existing scheme 20 per cent rebate on handloom products is allowed for 30 days in a year plus during Exhibitions organised and approved by the Office of the Development Commissioner for Handlooms, as originally conceived. Only during 1983-84 and 1984-85 there was a change in the Policy when 20 per cent rebate was offered for 60 days in a year to be utilized at the discretion of the States for general rebate or for rebate at Exhibitions and in 1985-86 rebate was allowed for 45 days in a year plus National Handloom Expos. The Government have now reverted back to the original scheme as some of the State Governments had represented that the earlier scheme was more equitable, and also because the Sub-Group on Handloom which was set up for the Seventh Plan to go into all aspects relating to the development of the Handloom sector, including the rebate scheme, had recommended that this scheme must be phased out. Under the circumstances it has not been possible to concede to the request of the Government of Tamilnadu.

Separate banking scheme for rural areas

756. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to introduce any separate banking scheme for the rural areas; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Commercial banks and the Regional Rural Banks are already participating in a large number of schemes in the rural areas. Integrated Rural Development Programme is a major programme financed by the banks.

Government have no proposal at present before it to have a separate banking scheme for rural areas as such.

Decline in Engineering Exports

757. SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the factors responsible for the decline in engineering exports since 1982-83; and

(b) what measures have been taken by Government to increase engineering exports in future?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR): (a) The decline in export of engineering goods is, *inter alia* on account of severe competition in international markets, protectionist tendencies in some of the developed countries, balance of payments problems and slowing down